BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the present invention will be realized from the detailed description which follows, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view of an apparatus which includes a micro-electro-mechanical switch embodying the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a diagrammatic fragmentary top view of the apparatus of FIGURE 1, and also diagrammatically shows a control circuit which effects operation of the switch;

FIGURE 3 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view similar to FIGURE 1, but showing a different operational position of a membrane of the switch;

FIGURE 4 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view similar to FIGUREs 1 and 3, but showing still another operational position of the membrane of the switch;

FIGURE 5 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view of the switch of FIGURE 1 at a point in time during a process of fabricating the switch;

FIGURE 6 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view similar to FIGURE 1 but showing a different apparatus which includes a switch embodying the present invention, and which is an alternative embodiment of the apparatus of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 7 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view showing the apparatus of FIGURE 6 at a point in time during the fabrication of the switch;

FIGURE 8 is a diagrammatic fragmentary sectional side view similar to FIGURE 6 but showing yet another

apparatus which includes a switch embodying the invention, and which is an alternative embodiment of the apparatus of FIGURE 6;

FIGURE 9 is a diagram showing several different types of membranes used in micro-electro-mechanical switches, including membranes from switches which embody the present invention;

FIGUREs 10-17 are graphs which diagrammatically show various different characteristics of one or more of the membranes shown in FIGURE 9; and

FIGUREs 18 and 19 are each a diagrammatic side view of a portion of one of the membranes of FIGURE 9, showing how that membrane will respond to variations in temperature.